Attorney Docket # 5253-27   PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Peter THURMANN et al.

Serial No.:   10/699,229

Filed: October 31, 2003

For: Piston-Cylinder Unit

Examiner: Schwartz, C. P.
Group Art: 3683

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Commissioner for Patents
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REPLY BRIEF

SIR:

This Reply Brief is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §41.41 to address arguments presented in the Examiner's Answer mailed on July 28, 2005.

The Examiner states that the Appeal Brief filed on July 11, 2005 (Brief) does not contain a statement identifying the related appeals and interferences. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to page 2 of the Brief clearly stating that there are no related appeals and interferences.

In section 12 of the Examiner's Answer, it is stated that "Freitag et al. shows a pneumatic spring having an insulating sleeve at 10 and a *similar* sleeve at 36 which extends into the gap". (emphasis added) Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's term "similar." Freitag does not teach that coating 10 and sleeve 36 are *similar*. Structurally, sleeve 36 is spaced from heat-shrink coating 10, and, functionally, sleeve 36 is an electrical insulator which "may be a bellows." See Freitag, col. 3, lines 22-25. Furthermore, sleeve 36 is displaceable relative to cylindrical member 1 and, thus, relative to coating 10, as is taught by Freitag incorporating the relevant teaching of U.S. Patent 3,919,509 (Schnitzius). See Freitag, col. 1, lines 47-48. In the extended

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